Shortcomings in PDS

440. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have been asked to remove the shortcomings of Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether he has ruled out any possibility of structuring Food Corporation of India;

(c) whether the Prime Minister had also called a meeting of the Chief Ministers and other National Leaders to discuss Public Distribution System issue;

(d) if so, to what extent he has taken steps to remove shortcomings of PDS which has failed to reach the people below the poverty line; and

(e) the help and assistance to States which the Centre has approved for successful implementation of PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The progressive reform/improvement of the Public Distribution System (in order to improve efficiency, accountability and effectiveness) is an ongoing process and several measures have been in hand, from time to time, to address the same. A Model Citizen's Charter has been issued, as also Guidelines for involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the identification of beneficiaries and monitoring of the Public Distribution System and the PDS (Control) Order, 2001. There is no proposal, at present, to restructure the Food Corporation of India.

With a view to further streamlining and strengthening the PDS, an All Parties Meeting on the subject is scheduled to be held on 25th July, 2003.